Employment opportunities for SCs/STs

3186. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote economic interest of SCs and STs in the field of sale, marketing, dealership/distribution and also transportation carry and forward of petroleum and natural gas products;

(b) whether any scheme has been chalked out by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps proposed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to create employment opportunities for SCs/STs and encourage them to come to mainstream of national life?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As per policy of Government, 25% dealerships/distributorships of Petroleum Products are reserved for SC/ST Categories. Financial Assistance to Seheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Category; for setting up of dealerships/ distributorships will be available under the Corpus Fund Scheme. There is no reservation in Transportation of Natural Gas but in the case of bulk and packed transportation 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs are reserved.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of answer at (b) above.

Oil trading and risk management desk of IOC

3187. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC proposes to set up an oil trading and risk management desk abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such decision?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Malpractices adopted by petroleum dealers

3188. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large scale malpractices such as adulteration, undcrweighing etc. arc being done by the petrol pumps-LPG-Kcroscnc dealers as well as other dealers of petroleum products in the country; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to curb these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Some cases of adulteration, short supply etc. have been detected. Steps such as blue dyeing of PDS Kerosene, periodical inspection of the retail outlets, introduction of tamper proof locking system for tanker-trucks, special vigilance drives, etc. are taken by the Oil Marketing Companies. Action is taken by the Companies against erring dealers under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines and/or Dealership Agreement. Also, under the provisions of the "Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993", Oil Companies and State Governments can initiate action against any dealer indulging in adulteration and also for misusing public distribution kerosene for purposes other than those permitted. In addition, the Government have also constituted Anti Adulteration Cell to overview the issues arising out of adulteration.